

# Darkhad dialect

**Darkhad** (also "Darkhat") is a dialect in-between Central Mongolian and Oirat<sup>[2]</sup> still variously seen as closer to Oirat<sup>[3]</sup> or as a dialect of Khalkha Mongolian with some Oirat features.<sup>[4]</sup> However, it seems to have substantially assimilated to the Khalkha dialect since it first was described by Sanžeev,<sup>[5]</sup> and some classificational differences seem to be due to what historical (or even ideal) state got classified. A population of 20,000 was reported in 2000.<sup>[6]</sup> Speakers live mainly in the west of Lake Khövsgöl in the sums Bayanzürkh, Ulaan-Uul and Rinchinlkhümbe in the Khövsgöl Province of Mongolia.<sup>[7]</sup>

<b>Darkhat</b>	
<b>Native to</b>	Mongolia
<b>Region</b>	north Mongolia
<b>Language family</b>	Mongolic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Northern Mongolic</li> <li>▪ <b>Darkhat</b></li> </ul>
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	—
<b>Glottolog</b>	dark1243 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dark1243">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dark1243</a> ) <sup>[1]</sup>

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## Phonetics and phonology

In contrast to Oirat, it has /o/ and /u/ and a diphthongized equivalent of \*ai.<sup>[8]</sup> However, monophthongized reflexes of \*ai can be encountered and more so in older language material, so it can be assumed that \*ai > ε : > εe due to Khalkha influence.<sup>[9]</sup> Somewhat similar developments can be observed for other vowels,<sup>[10]</sup> but as at least /n/ and /l/ can get palatalized,<sup>[11]</sup> it is problematic whether palatalized consonants or fronted vowels have to be considered as phonemes.<sup>[12]</sup> It patterns with the Oirat dialects of the Mongolian state in that it retains \*jn<sup>[13]</sup> and sometimes has \*b > /m/.<sup>[14]</sup> It doesn't have the Khalkh /ʊ/ and /u/ in non-first syllables, as these merged with /ɔ/ and /o/.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Verbal system

Person inflections as in Oirat or Buryat are getting lost, but used to be present. There are both voluntatives (irrespective of number) in -ja/-ji as in Khalkha and -su for first person singular as in Oirat and Buryat, e.g. /galdaʃixajə/<sup>[16]</sup> 'let's burn it' and ɔrsu 'I shall enter', but the latter form is rare. The benedictive -kti is actively used as holds for Buryat, e.g. /ta: bidə nertæ jawdʒi bɛkti/ 'Please, come with us'. Next to the normal concessive in -g/-k 's/he may', there is also a concessive -/galdə/ that marks an order to a third person. The other, fairly unremarkable modal verbal suffixes are the imperative, prescriptive, optative and dubitative.<sup>[17]</sup> The inventory of indicative finite verbal suffixes contains the usual reflexes of Written Mongolian ⟨ -nam ⟩, ⟨ -luy-a ⟩, ⟨ -žuqui ⟩ and ⟨ -ba ⟩, the last one being rare as usual. There is a fifth suffix,

/-čč/ (possibly from ⟨-ču orkičuqui⟩), probably expressing some kind of perfect aspect meaning, that is peculiar to Darkhad, e.g. /jawultčč/ 'has sent'. The participles are the same as in Common Mongolic.<sup>[18]</sup> However, a thorough analysis of the function of these items in contrast to each other has not been conducted. The converbs are not very particular, but the earliest texts of Darkhad still have a conditional /-wəs/ (as in Buryat and Middle Mongolian) next to /-wəl/. Furthermore, it used to be possible to negative them with reflexes of ⟨ügei⟩ as in Buryat. Instead of ⟨-mayča⟩ 'as soon as', ⟨-nsar⟩ is used.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Nominal system

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The case system is the same as in Khalkha, and Oirat plurals like -mud are absent.<sup>[20]</sup> The pronouns are the same as Khalkha, but a paradigm of the first person plural exclusive without nominative is attested for the old stages of Darkhat<sup>[21]</sup> (as would hold for Khalkha<sup>[22]</sup> in the 1930s and still holds for Oirat).

## See also

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- Darkhads

## References

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### Citations

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Darkhat" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dark1243>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Sanjaa and Tuyaa 2001: 33-34
3. as Tuyaa and Tuul 2008: 5 can be understood
4. e.g. Svantesson et al. 2005: 142.
5. Gáspár 2006: 25 based on own field research and Sanžeev 1931
6. Darkhat ([https://www.ethnologue.com/16/show\\_language/drh](https://www.ethnologue.com/16/show_language/drh)) at *Ethnologue* (16th ed., 2009)
7. Sanžaa and Tuja 2001: 33
8. Rinchen 1979: 176-177, 179, 197, 202, phoneme analysis according to Svantesson et al. 2005.
9. Gáspár 2006: 16-17, 19
10. Gáspár 2006: 13-20
11. Gáspár 2006: 22-23
12. Non-initial \*i has disappeared from the phonemic representation (Gáspár 2006: 11), but as Gáspár doesn't ask the question.
13. Rinchen 1979: 231-234; instead of [n], an underlined "n" is used which is cryptically explained as a "nasalized n", but is used on 185 and 189 to mark the well-known word-final /ŋ/ in such words as ⟨šaltgaan⟩ ([N]) and ⟨hövüün⟩ ([ŋ]); cp. Svantesson et al. 2005: 18)
14. Rinchen 1979: 222-223, for a counterexample see 225
15. Sanžaa and Tuja 2001
16. From the material cited in this article, it is impossible to say whether Darkhad differentiates between voicedness or aspiratedness. It is not even possible to make a reasonable guess as Khalkha, Oirat and Buryat seem to differ from each other in this respect. As the transcription quoted is neither strictly phonemic nor phonetic, it is also impossible to know whether /l, g, x/ or rather /ʒ, ɣ, χ/
17. Gáspár 2006: 27-31

18. Gáspár 2006: 31-36
19. Gáspár 2006: 36-39
20. Gáspar 2006: 40-42
21. Gáspar 2006: 44-45
22. Poppe 1951: 71

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